Although the original plans to celebrate this milestone had to be canceled due to these unprecedented times of Covid-19, UCCA has prepared this 30 minute program online as but a start of our yearlong celebration.
On May 26th, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) took to the internet to mark its 80th anniversary. Unable to celebrate its historic anniversary as planned, due to the corona virus pandemic, UCCA rose to the occasion, deliberated options and adjusted its strategy to celebrate together with a virtual program.

At 7:30pm, the coordinated airing of UCCA’s celebratory anniversary, streaming on UCCA’s website, Facebook page and YouTube channel, opened with a few words from UCCA’s President, Andriy Futey. Setting the tone for the evening, Futey warmly welcomed the community and special guests to UCCA’s virtual celebration. Highlighting some salient facts of UCCA’s history, and thanking the thousands of volunteers, Futey concluded his remarks by raising a toast and wishing UCCA many more years!

The first to speak was His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA who sincerely thanked UCCA for its 80 years of dedicated service, stating “UCCA has invested enormously in the development of the Ukrainian American community… you are the platform where we share ideas and we build
The Archeparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan-Archeparchy of Philadelphia was the next to address UCCA. In his warm words of greeting, Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak reassured UCCA of the churches support stating, “The winds of war occasioned the gathering of the Congress - the first time, 80 years ago, we came together. Today we see even the quarantine, even this pandemic cannot separate us – we stand together, we are united, the Catholic Church is with the Congress.”

Honoring this historic date were also UCCA's former Presidents: Tamara Gallo Olexy (2008-2016), Michael Sawkiw, Jr. (2000-2008), Askold Lozynskyj (1992-2000) and Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, daughter of Ambassador Lev Dobriansky (1949-1982).

Speaking chronologically, UCCA's former presidents highlighted the vital role UCCA played and continues to play in representing the interests of our Ukrainian American community and the leading role it played in the ceaseless battle for Ukraine’s liberation. They also outlined UCCA's important role in directly assisting its brethren in Ukraine following Ukraine’s 1991 renewed independence. UCCA’s important role was probably best summed up by Amb. Paula Dobriansky, daughter of UCCA's longest serving president, who stated “my father believed in the importance of the mission of the UCCA and its very unifying purpose, which is underscored by the fact that it has lived a very long life.”

Also joining in the celebration were Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, former President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, and President of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), Pavlo Grod. All underscored the important mission UCCA has played in the life of the Ukrainian American community as well as UCCA's support for Ukraine.

Well acquainted with UCCA's history, Minister Kuleba highlighted many UCCA accomplishments in his sincere greeting. He also thanked UCCA for its continuing role in helping Ukraine secure its independence warmly stating, “You are not just our partners; you are our friends…our brothers and sisters… who continue to battle with us
Ukraine’s former President, Petro Poroshenko, thanked UCCA for being Ukraine’s “guardian angels” during its long history of standing in solidarity with captive Ukraine, exposing the truth about the Ukrainian people imprisoned by a totalitarian regime, and standing side by side with independent Ukraine in its desire to live in peace and join the EuroAtlantic community.

The program’s final speaker, UWC President Pavlo Grod, highlighted the fact that UCCA was the initiator and one of the founders of the Ukrainian World Congress and thanked UCCA for 80 years of successfully leading and coordinating the Ukrainian American community. “Your strong voice and advocacy continue to be critical in ensuring the bipartisan support for Ukraine in the United States, which is arguably Ukraine’s strongest defense against Russia’s imperialist ambitions.”

In addition to video greetings, images of public tweets from Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ukraine’s Ambassador to the United States, Volodymyr Yelchenko were also included in the video presentation. President Zelenskyy congratulated UCCA on its 80th anniversary by tweeting “The Committee plays an extremely important role in the life of the Ukrainian community in the United States. Deeply grateful for its huge contribution to the protection and advocacy of Ukraine’s rights and interests.” Ambassador Yelchenko congratulated UCCA on its anniversary, tweeting, “I appreciate your many years of inspired work for the prosperity of Ukraine, for the true partnership between Ukraine and the United States. The Embassy of Ukraine is happy to join in today’s virtual celebration. Let’s Celebrate together!”

UCCA sincerely thanks all those who shared their warm greetings and helped us remotely celebrate this historic anniversary. As UCCA continues to receive celebratory greetings on its 80th anniversary, it will make them public in future programs on UCCA’s YouTube page [bit.ly/UCCATube]; its Facebook page [facebook.com/pg/UCCA.org], and all materials will be archived on UCCA’s website at UCCA.ORG/80YEARS.
The Kyiv Post spoke with all presidents of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in the past 30 years, including the organization’s current leader. All told the Kyiv Post that the organization’s priorities are to help Ukraine during this time of war against Russia and to encourage new Ukrainian immigrants who have come to the U.S. since independence to join UCCA. They talked about what they achieved during their terms and the hardest challenges they faced.
WHAT IS UCCA?
The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?
Український Конґресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.